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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Rome, Italy, 23-27 June 2014

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

I. FAO CONFERENCE

1. **At its 38th session, held in Rome on 15-22 June 2013 the FAO Conference¹:**
 - a) endorsed the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO);
 - b) invited Members to emphasize and promote the contribution of forests to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - c) invited countries to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between forestry and other land use sectors at all levels in order to enhance effectiveness in achieving development goals and fulfilling international commitments;
 - d) recommended that countries develop suitable strategies and actions for sustained financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and strengthen regional and international cooperation in this area;
 - e) invited countries to integrate fire management into national, rural land and forest management policies; and
 - f) noted the results of the Strategic Thinking Process and urged that the role of forestry be duly reflected in the implementation of the Strategic Objectives;
 - g) noted the International Conference on Forests and Food Security, as well as the Forest and Farm Facility, as important vehicles of cross-sectoral collaboration and invited FAO to continue supporting synergies within and outside the forest sector, including through a proactive role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, integration of forest issues into key environmental and land-use policies at all levels and closer cooperation in the area of forestry, agriculture and fisheries;
 - h) stressed the need to consider boreal forests for their contribution to providing multiple goods and a wide range of ecosystem services; and
 - i) suggested the allocation of adequate resources for the Forestry programme reflecting the important role of forests in FAO's mandate.

¹ C 2013/REP

2. At the same session, the FAO Conference:
 - a) welcomed and adopted the Report of the 14th Regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA–14/13/Report) with an amendment in footnote 25 to read CGRFA–14/13/Inf.16 Rev.1 instead of CGRFA-14/13/Inf.16.;
 - b) adopted the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources;
 - c) noted the complementarity between the work of the Commission and the Nagoya Protocol in regards to Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for Genetic Resources.
3. At the same session, the FAO Conference:
 - a) endorsed the Report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Forests 2011;
 - b) recognized the achievements of the International Year in raising public awareness of the contribution of forests to sustainable development; and further recognized the active involvement of Member Nations and the contribution of FAO in supporting and coordinating activities, including within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and
 - c) noted with appreciation the proclamation of 21 March as the International Day of Forests and requested FAO to facilitate the implementation of the International Day as stipulated in General Assembly (GA) Resolution A/RES/67/200.

The Committee may wish to consider the requests as contained in 1d), f), g) and i), 2) and 3) when addressing Agenda item 7.1. Programme Priorities; and in 1h) in particular, when addressing Agenda Item 7.3.

II. FAO COUNCIL

4. **At its 145th session, the FAO Council²** endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) (24-28 September 2012).

The Council also:

- a) took note of the conclusions of the Report on the State of the World's Forests 2012, noted that the Committee had invited the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to consider the findings at its 10th Session (April 2013), and invited FAO to continue playing an active role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);
- b) recommended the promotion of sustainable management of forests and trees in an integrated approach across the overall landscape, and that the future role of the Organization in the "Bonn Challenge" be clearly defined.

The Committee may wish to respond to the proposal contained in 4a) on inviting FAO to continue playing an active role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) when addressing Agenda item 5.4. as well as and recommending the future role of the Organization in the "Bonn Challenge" when addressing Agenda item 6.

5. **At its 146th session, the Council³:**
 - a) reviewed and approved the updated version of the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and endorsed the recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees concerning the Strategy. FAO promotes that the views of small farmers, fishers, women, youth and others are brought to policy, normative and technical discussions convened by the FAO, and subject to a decision by Member States, to technical Committees (i.e. COFI, COFO, COAG) or FAO's governing bodies. In

² CL 145/REP

³ CL 146/REP

the latter case, FAO in coordination with the Chairs and Secretariats, invites relevant civil society networks as observers.

The Committee is invited to consider participation of Civil Society Organizations in the future sessions of the Committee when developing the next MYPOW of the Committee on Forestry for 2016-2019.

6. At its 147th session, the FAO Council⁴:

- a) took note of information on the Tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (Istanbul, 8-19 April 2013).

7. At its 148th session, the FAO Council⁵:

- a) reviewed the progress reports on the Multi-year Programmes of Work (MYPOWs) of the Council, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, the FAO Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees;
- b) recognized that the MYPOW mechanism was at an early stage and would benefit from further elaboration by concerned Governing Bodies, which had primary responsibility for their own MYPOW;

The Committee is invited to consider this item when addressing its Multi-year Programmes of Work.

- c) endorsed the proposed arrangements for an Independent Review of Governance.

Action 2.74 in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), approved by the FAO Conference in 2008, provides that “Conference will assess the workings of the governance reforms, including the role and functioning of the Regional Conferences, with an independent review as an input to this process.” This action builds on a recommendation made in 2007 by the Independent External Evaluation of FAO that “after six years, there should be a comprehensive review of progress on governance reforms and their effectiveness.” The Council reviewed the final report on IPA implementation at its 146th Session in April 2013 and endorsed it. In respect of Action 2.74, it recommended that “the Secretariat arrange for an Independent Review of the workings of the governance reforms to be undertaken in 2014 for assessment by the Conference in June 2015. The specific modalities for this Independent Review were reviewed by Council at its 148th Session.

The Council also noted that the purpose of the Review was to carry out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms and to identify areas for further improvement and adjustments. The Independent Review will analyse the whole set of decisions made and steps taken by FAO, both Secretariat, Governing Bodies (GBs) (this includes: Technical Committees, Regional Conferences, other Committees of the Council, Council and Conference) and Membership, to implement the IPA actions and sub-actions aimed at reforming the corporate governance mechanisms.

The Review will make use of, inter alia, direct interaction with Member Nations, and observation of the decision making process, through participation in a sample of meetings of Governing Bodies, including Regional Conferences. The 22nd COFO session was selected, among other sessions of the Governing Bodies, to be attended by the Independent Review team to observe the procedures and processes and interact directly with members.

⁴ CL 147/REP

⁵ CL 148/REP

The Council also took note of the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition (Rome, May 2013).

III. COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

8. At its 40th session, the CFS⁶:
- a) endorsed the Second Version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition GSF (2013) that includes the policy recommendations for Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition and Food Security and Climate Change that were endorsed at CFS 39 in 2012 and encouraged all stakeholders to promote and make use of the Second Version of the GSF (2013) acknowledging its voluntary nature;
 - b) took note on the update on the process to develop Principles for responsible agricultural investments in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition
9. Forests and trees outside forests contribute to food security, nutrition and livelihoods in several ways, including as a direct source of food, fuel, employment and cash income. In 2013, FAO organised the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition, which developed a set of recommendations in support of actions towards enhanced contribution of forests in addressing hunger and food security.

The Committee may wish to consider how to increase the understanding and knowledge on how forests and trees can address the Zero Hunger Challenge and contribute to food security and nutrition under Agenda item 5.3. The Committee may also wish to consider how forests contributions to these challenges can be more visible in the work of the Committee on World Food Security.

IV. COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

10. At its 14th Session, in April 2013, the CGRFA reviewed and revised draft strategic priorities for action for forest genetic resources and agreed on them as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources. It invited the Director-General of FAO to bring the Global Plan of Action to the attention of the FAO Conference with a view to adopting it. At its 38th Session, in June 2013, the FAO Conference adopted the Global Plan of Action.
11. The CGRFA also requested FAO to develop an implementation strategy for the Global Plan of Action and encouraged the mobilization of adequate financial resources, preferably from voluntary contributions, particularly to support developing countries, to support its implementation.

The Committee may wish to consider the implications of these decisions when addressing Agenda items 5.5. and 7.1.

V. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

12. **The 28th Regional Conference for Africa held in Tunis, Tunisia, 24-28 March 2014,** considered, among others, the situation of Africa Youth in agribusiness and rural development and the state of food and agriculture in the region. As presented in the advance unedited version of the report available at the time of writing, the Conference recommended members and FAO several measures to enable better engagement of youth in agriculture and rural development including creating enabling legal and financial environments and developing skills and capacities.
13. The Conference further noted that integrated, multi-sector and territorial approaches including agriculture are critical to addressing interrelated challenges affecting rural economy and fostering broad-based socio-economic developments and made recommendations accordingly. It also

⁶ CFS 2013/40 REPORT

encouraged the implementation of and capacity development for the Voluntary Guidelines of Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

14. **The 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 10 - 14 March 2014**⁷ considered opportunities and constraints related to restoration of grasslands and forests in the region, particularly in relation to climate change. The Regional Conference:

- noted that degradation of grasslands and forests can have severe negative local impacts and far-reaching consequences, including soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, desertification, dust storms, diminished livelihood opportunities, and reduced yields of products and services;
- stressed the importance of identifying and addressing the underlying causes of grassland and forest degradation and loss, and urged FAO support for related analysis and the formulation of action plans for addressing such factors;
- highlighted the many environmental, social and economic benefits that can accrue from effective forest and grassland restoration, while stressing the need for safeguards to ensure that restoration activities protect and enhance biodiversity and respect the rights and interests of local people, especially indigenous people and traditional forest and grassland dwellers;
- appreciated the renewed importance being placed on restoration of grasslands and forests and urged collective action by member countries, FAO and other development partners to accelerate the pace of restoration in the region;
- encouraged FAO's continued involvement in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, initiatives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), including the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), and other programmes supporting forest and grassland restoration;
- supported FAO's plans to establish a Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism to facilitate and support national restoration activities; and

requested FAO to support member countries in:

- advocacy, awareness raising and engagement of key decision-makers in support of forest and grassland restoration;
- building technical capacities and formulating policies and measures to create an enabling environment for effective forest and grassland restoration, including strengthening tenure rights;
- exploring opportunities for innovative financing of restoration activities, including through payments for ecosystem services and other efforts to link investors to local communities implementing restoration activities;
- enhancing livelihood opportunities for forest and grassland communities, including linking communities to markets for products and services from forests and grasslands, to strengthen resilience;
- establishing effective mechanisms for working across sectors at landscape levels to implement programmes for forest and grassland restoration; and
- facilitating the exchange of information and lessons learned on successful restoration efforts, and supporting pilot initiatives to introduce promising new techniques and approaches.

15. **The 29th Regional Conference for Europe**⁸, 1-4 April 2014, (Bucharest, Romania) considered the report on Priorities for FAO Activities in the Europe and Central Asia Region, covering achievements in 2012-13 and the proposals for 2014-15 and beyond. The Conference supported, inter alia, the areas of work in the region with regard to natural resource management including fisheries and forestry, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

⁷ APCR/14/REP

⁸ ERC/14/REP

16. The 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, 6-9 May 2014 (Santiago, Chile)

The outcome of the Conference will be submitted as an addendum to this document.

17. The 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East held in Rome, Italy, 24 - 28 February 2014⁹ reviewed recommendations of the Twenty-first Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC). The Regional Conference:

- a) noted the recommendations of the NEFRC in: 1) properly positioning forests and rangelands in developmental policies and strategies; 2) recognizing the role of forests and rangelands and their role in enhancing synergies among the Rio Conventions; and (3) focusing FAO programmes on capacity-building and related education and training, and
- b) noted the need for enhancing the work on valuation of forests' contribution to sustainable development; supporting countries in developing forest and rangeland-related policies, strategies and programmes; and strengthening the focus on capacity-building in areas comprised in the new Strategic Framework.

18. The Informal Conference for North America

The outcome of the Informal Conference will be submitted as an addendum to this document.

The Committee may wish to consider how to strengthen further the linkage between the regional and global levels and give guidance for appropriate responses to the recommendations of the Regional Conferences under item 7.1 Programme Priorities.

⁹ NERC/14/REP